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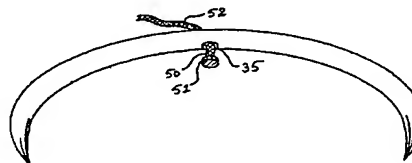
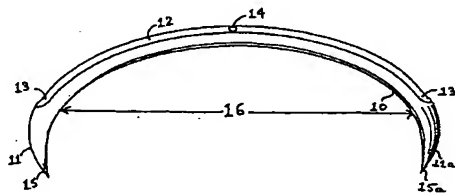
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(54) Title: **SUTURE NEEDLE AND SUTURE ASSEMBLY**



(57) Abstract: The present invention provides a suture needle and suture assembly for use in a surgery. The suture needle comprises a curvilinear, arched shaft (16) tapering at both ends (11, 11a) to form tips (15, 15a) for impalement. A groove (12) for housing the suture is provided on the needle approximately equally remotely located from the tips (15, 15a) and running along its length either on the inner or the outer surfaces. The needle has a hole (14) through the center of the groove (12) and extending to the inner and outer surfaces of the shaft (16). A fastening means such as a crimp or plug (51) secures the suture (52) to the suture needle. The suture (52) comprises a regular portion, and a narrower section housed within the groove. The hole (14) comprises two coaxially aligned hollow cylindrical cavities with differing diameters. Fastening means is of diameter equal to the diameter of the cylindrical cavity with larger diameter so as to enable resilient fastening.

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